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Title: Need to extend train service running from Chennai to Chingleput upto Kancheepuram and also undertake modernization of Kancheepuram Railway Station.

SHRI P. VISWANATHAN (KANCHEEPURAM): Kancheepuram attracts thousands of tourists from all over the country and abroad. The nearest main city is Chennai. Many people want to visit the important places in Kancheepuram within a day and return to Chennai by the evening. In order to facilitate such tourists and also attract more tourists, the first train departing early morning from Chennai Beach station for Chingleput can be extended upto Kancheepuram. This may be considered on top priority. In the Railway Budget speech, the then hon'ble Minister of Railways mentioned that in Chennai area, there was a proposal to run 18 additional services. Out of the 18 additional train services announced, I would like to request that the Chennai Beach to Chingleput train service may be extended to Kancheepuram. This will benefit the students, employees and pilgrims who are visiting nearby Mahabalipuram.

The modernisation of Kancheepuram Railway Station has been approved during the year 2011-12. But the work has not been undertaken till date. Kancheepuram is an ancient temple city. Apart from the temple city, it is also the seat of education and famous for silk works. I hope that the Railway Minister will take immediate steps to implement the modernisation without any further delay to avoid escalation of cost.